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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

Much has been said of a division in our school on the subject of doses. There is not, neither can there be, controversy on this point; notwithstanding the erroneous assertion, that many prominent Homœopaths have changed

their views on this branch of our art, and that even Hahnemann renounced the use of the higher attenuations at a late period of his life.

The homœopathic art is founded upon a fundamental principle in nature—eternally true—and of universal application. It is a sure—the only true, or scientific law known in medicine by which the Physician may be guided in practice. "Art is to science what action is to thought. The discovery of the law of Homœopathy made medicine as a science perfect. Medicines tend to cure diseases similar to those they tend to produce. This is a perfect hypothesis for the circumstances; because it embraces all the circumstances coming within the range of medication, and it is possible to establish the truth or falseness of it by experiment."

Hahnemann as if by inspiration caught this idea in his study of the *materia medica* of Cullen. He put it to the test. He experimented until he demonstrated its truth. The only way in which it could be known, or that can give to the opinions of its opposers the value of any thing. He administered drugs in the first place upon this principle in large or ordinary doses; but he found as might have been supposed, if the principle were true; that, though he effected cures, severe and unnecessary aggravations were produced in the disease, and often the specific effects of the drug were substituted. In a natural disease he gave a drug, that would produce a similar phenomena in a healthy person; and now, when the susceptibilities of the system are aroused to its action, it is perfectly in harmony with the law, that too large a dose should aggravate the condition of the patient. Hence, he diminished the dose, and continued to do so, until he found he could cause a curative reaction, without the violent effects of the remedy.

As simple dilution would not obviate this difficulty sufficiently, he devised his mode of at-

tenuation or dynamization. And in this way, he was enabled in most cases to secure only the curative effects; and to establish that broad and beautiful distinction in the doses, which exists between the old (allopathic) and the new (homœopathic) schools in medicine.

The former obtaining the palliative, alternative and poisonous action of drugs; the latter the curative influence. The vital power of the human system, upon the disturbance of which, the diseased condition depends, is not a thing of brass, or wood, or stone, to be wrought upon by mechanical forces. It is not a material agent to be moved by forces, estimated by the grain, ounce, or pound. It is immaterial—dynamic—spiritual, and is susceptible to disturbing influences of a like nature. There is nothing ponderable in the balmy breeze of a summers morning, which comes charged with the undetectable miasm; and which makes its silent impress upon the unconscious victim, intent only on the freshness and sweetness of the atmosphere; while anon, he is seized with a violent ague—the fatal cholera—or the hideous eruption of the smallpox.

The limit of this attenuation of drugs is not fixed nor known. The different degrees are valuable, and must remain so, as long as there be differences of constitution, stages and states of disease.

The power of the doses is a matter of experience, made available by tact, and skill and judgement. As we know no limit to the divisibility of matter; neither is there a point in the process of attenuation beyond which, it may be said, no susceptibility exists to the influence of a medicine homœopathic to it.

There are no accredited homœopathic physicians who disbelieve, or deny the power of dynamized medicines. We know not the man whose claims to an understanding and appreciation of the principles of homœopathy are acknowledged, who denies the doctrine of the dynamization of medicines, and who only employs the crude drugs. If there are those pretending to the practice of homœopathy who use only crude drugs, they openly avow their adhesion to some of the empiricism of the old school; and with such, there is controversy.

The entire scale is before the physician—he who knows the power of the 3d or 6th or 12th attenuations, has no reason to question that of the 30th. Nor can he who knows the value of the 30th deny curative effects beyond it. Undoubtedly the potencies in more common use,

are found to be satisfactory in every day practice; yet cases may be distinguished where the higher are preferable, and they will always be employed by these most skilled in the treatment of complicated, difficult, and especially in chronic diseases.

The observant practitioner will readily discover from his own experience, the value of the different attenuations. He will learn to distinguish the alterative action of large doses, from the curative effects of the attenuations. We have it from the best authority that Hahnemann in the latter period of his life, so far from renouncing his views of doses, was engaged in extending the scale of attenuations. Hartmann says:—

“Hahnemann even thought that those highest dynamizations were frequently too powerful, especially in chronic diseases, and he therefore introduced the method of simply smelling a few pellets moistened with the medicine. Afterwards he thought that even olfaction was too powerful for certain delicate organisms, and he advised such patients to dissolve a few pellets of the medicine in half a tumblerful of water, and of taking a tablespoonful every day, or every two or three days. According to Boenninghausen's communication in the New Archive, first and second number, Hahnemann has carried his dynamizations still higher.

“The correctness of the views which Hahnemann has promulgated about the dynamizing power of the processes of trituration and succession, cannot be denied, nor will it be denied by any one who is familiar with homœopathic practice, and has used the 30th, 40th, and 60th potency of Arsenic, Belladonna, etc., with the same happy results as we have done in our practice. Latterly, however, the process of dynamization has been carried much farther than ever had been before, and with so much enthusiasm that it is impossible to foresee its ultimate boundaries.”

The value of the different potencies is established. The more the opinions and practice of Hahnemann are considered, the more, we apprehend, will they command confidence.

The adoption of the rules laid down by him for the treatment of disease, has nowhere disappointed the expectations of the practitioner.

Extract from the minutes of the *Homœopathic Society of New York*, at the regular monthly meeting, March 9th, 1847.

"Resolved, That the discourse which Dr. Joslin read before this society, this evening, on taking the chair, be published in the *American Journal of Homœopathy*."

B. F. BOWERS, Sec'y.

EVIDENCES

OF THE

POWER OF SMALL DOSES AND ATTENUATED MEDICINES,

INCLUDING A

THEORY OF POTENTIZATION.

BY B. F. JOSLIN, M. D.,

OF NEW YORK.

GENTLEMEN,

Who, after due study of the writings of Hahnemann and a strict trial of his method of practice, has ever come to the conclusion that Hahnemann was an impostor or a visionary and Homœopathy a cheat or a delusion? If any honest physician, after a careful trial, ever rejected the Homœopathic practice, he must possess a feeble intellect. As the sceptical portion of the medical profession have not made this examination, their prejudices are entitled to some respect. How shall they be prevailed on to undertake the requisite reading, and those experiments which are still more essential. Many feel themselves fortified in their present position by the testimony of antiquity, or the countenance of their fellow practitioners. Were I addressing such, I would commence with the following

Fable of the Ass and the Steamboat.—An ass, heavily laden with a sack of letters directed to a distant town on the river, was met on his way by a fox, who apprized him, that ease and expedition would both be promoted, by transferring his burden to a steamer which had just then stopped at the shore.

"This is unreasonable, friend Reynard," replied the patient beast; "for my method of transporting the mail has been in operation three thousand years, yours only fifty. It is impossible that the combined wisdom of so many generations should not exceed that of one."

"Your reasoning," replied the fox, "can

have no weight, unless there had been a race or races between steamboats and asses during the said three thousand years, and it had been decided that the ass always gained the race and was less fatigued. Now this trial of speed and strength must have been impossible before steamboats were invented."

Whilst the mail-carrier of the old line was staggering under the weight of this argument and that of his letters, another ass overtook him, and having overheard the conversation, was enabled to bring timely aid to the confounded disputant.

"Master Reynard," quoth he, "you are not of an age and size rightly to decide such matters. Your facts and arguments may be unanswerable; but they should have no weight with any respectable ass. No respectable and learned ass should ever adopt the new method, until some other ass, still more respectable and more learned, shall have previously adopted it."

"It puzzles my brain," replied the fox, "to apply this rule to any useful purpose. I pity your hopeless condition. The practices of the respectable and learned asses could never be reformed, if each must wait till some ass more learned and respectable than himself should have set the example."

Moral.—The idol of one man is antiquity; that of another is respectability. The former rejects whatever was not in ages before him; the latter, whatever is not in the circle above him. The man who prefers caste to truth, and spurns useful discoveries not sanctioned by the head or the tail of some academy or fashionable clique, can only be pitied. But the man who venerates the shade of antiquity, and in matters even of science and art, is awed into ultra-conservatism by long-established opinion and usage, is entitled to some instruction. He does not consider, that the *non-adoption* of undiscovered facts and unheard opinions is not equivalent to their *rejection*. There are many facts, and inferences from them, which former ages neither adopted nor rejected; and simply because they never so much as dreamed, either of the possibility of the facts or of the conclusions to which their future discovery would necessarily lead every sound and unprejudiced mind.

Example.—Homœopathy is fifty years old. The physicians of former ages never rejected the Homœopathic materia medica, for it was not known; and as the physicians who preceded Hahnemann knew but few of the symp.

toms which medicines excite in healthy persons, they had no means of determining whether medicines always relieve symptoms similar to those which they produce: they never tried this as a general law of cure. They never made any Homœopathic attenuations, and consequently never dreamed of instituting any comparison between their efficacy and that of crude drugs. Homœopathy was never rejected before the time of Hahnemann.

Before stating, in favour of this system, any speculative views, I will acknowledge that my own conversion was not effected by them, but by the following experiments. I took the third attenuation of a medicine, and, avoiding the study of its alleged symptoms as recorded in books, I made a record of all the new symptoms which I experienced. When this record was completed, I examined a printed list of symptoms, and was surprised to find a remarkable coincidence between them and those which I had experienced. I at first thought it probably an accidental coincidence. I repeated the medicine, and again found a coincidence equally striking. Another medicine was then tried, with similar precautions and similar results. There was a new set of symptoms, very different from the former, but generally corresponding with the printed symptoms of the medicine last taken. Thus the evidence accumulated, from week to week, until I became thoroughly convinced that such a number of coincidences could not, on the theory of probabilities, be accidental. There were thousands of chances to one against such a supposition. I *knew* that the attenuated medicines were efficient, and the Homœopathic materia medica, so far as I had tested it, substantially true.

The above mode of commencing and continuing the investigation, is that which I would recommend to all inquirers. The incredibility of the power of the small doses and of the attenuations, had been my greatest stumbling-block. This being removed by actual and direct experiment, I felt confidence in Hahnemann, and felt justified in making therapeutic experiments, to test his grand law of healing. The result was equally satisfactory, and gave me a firm confidence—which every year's practice has tended to strengthen—in the exact truth and inestimable value of the Homœopathic law, and the superiority of the Homœopathic method of practice over every other system and combination of systems.

My apology for designing to give a discourse mainly theoretical, is that the direct examination of Homœopathy is, prevented by speculative objections. If Homœopathy were assailed only by facts, it has a magazine of facts sufficient for repelling the assault. To many minds, the facts of the new school seem incredible, because unsupported—as they think—by analogous facts, and inexplicable on any known principles. Even to the most observant men, these difficulties beset the very threshold of Homœopathic inquiry, and deter them from entering. Could such men be prevailed on to enter, their conversion would be secure. Not so with all. Some would be haunted with speculative difficulties, in spite of the testimony of their senses. A disproportionate activity of comparison would require analogies, and excessive causality would never be satisfied without scientific principles. Each case of medical scepticism requires its appropriate curative; which must have some specific relation to the dominant faculties. The man who believes nothing but what he *sees*, will never be cured by *thinking*; and the man who believes nothing but what he spins out of his own brain, “as spiders spin cobwebs out of their bowels,” will never be cured by *observation*. Reasoning corrects reasoning. We must cure sceptical minds as we do diseased bodies—homœopathically; and be all things to all men, in the hope of gaining some to the cause of truth.

The three grand theoretical problems of Homœopathy, are: First, Why are diseases cured by similar irritants? Secondly, Why by minute or infinitesimal doses? Thirdly, Why best by medicine in an attenuated state? Or in other words, On what principle are medicines potentized? Of the first problem, I shall not now attempt to give the solution. It never presented any serious difficulty to my own mind, nor is it the principal stumbling-block to persons in general. I shall not stop to inquire, whether the known fact, that diseases are curable by agents which excite similar affections, is to be explained on the principle that two similar diseases cannot coexist, or on the principle that an impression on the vital forces excites them to reaction, or on the principle that the secondary effect of a medicine is the opposite of the primary; nor shall I attempt to consider, whether some of these principles may not in some sense be compatible.

One thing is evident; that is, that two vital

actions in every respect similar, must involve the same parts, even to microscopic precision—the same tissues, the same fibres, the same particles. To employ a similar irritant is to meet the disease directly, in its very home, and either coincide with or oppose it, so far as the ultimate and practical effect is concerned. If the similarity is perfect, there can be no new action set up entirely foreign to the disease. As a strict homœopathic practice, then, does not tend to excite lateral movements, it must, as its ultimate effect, bring the system to a point either backward or forward of that to which the disease would have hurried it, but to a point—so to speak—on the same track. In other words, it must stay the disease or accelerate it, make it better or worse. This condition of action enables us and all men to compare the homœopathic results with unaided nature, as well as with the *antipathic* part of the old school practice. When the question is one of quantity, there is less uncertainty than when the question of quality is complicated with it. If homœopathic physicians generally made the disease worse, it would be a matter of notoriety. But if their agents have any efficiency, they must make it either worse or better. Let this general defence against the antipathists suffice, until they detect a decided and permanent aggravation—a making of the disease really worse—as the usual ultimate effect of homœopathic treatment. This we challenge them to detect.

Instead of confining ourselves to the defensive, it would be easy to maintain higher ground, and challenge a comparison between results obtained by opposites, and those by similars. Cold water transiently allays the irritation of a burn, but leaves it permanently irritable. Cathartics move the bowels, but leave them afterwards incapable of moving themselves. A plausible common sense tells the physicking physician, that he is removing costiveness; reason and experience should teach him that he is only stereotyping it. To relieve pain and nervous irritation, the community are perpetually drugged with opiates and other narcotics, which increase the sleeplessness and nervousness, and even the cough and pain, unless the drug is continually repeated. This last is the usual expedient. The blow has not weakened the disease: if it has not fatally stunned nature, she may eventually effect a cure.

If a patient would know the real effect

which a medicine has produced, let him suspend its use. If the symptoms disappear whenever the medicine is taken, and reappear whenever it is omitted, the medicine is doing absolutely nothing towards a cure. Homœopathia can safely appeal to this test; for she uses no mere palliatives. A single homœopathic dose will—after a slight retrograde impulse—move the patient forward on the track of amendment, for hours, days, or weeks, according to the nature of the disease, and bring him to a permanently advanced position, from which other doses will carry him forward to perfect and permanent health.

But whilst Homœopathia never sacrifices the future to the present, she, on the other hand, never sacrifices the present to the future: she arrests the most violent and rapid diseases, more forcibly and speedily than any other system.

To show the advantage of giving a medicine, which, at the first instant, coincides with the disease, instead of one which at the first instant opposes it, I have deemed it sufficient to appeal to the results, and to give a plain rule for testing the two modes of treatment at every stage.

In regard to another branch of the old school practice, the *revulsive* or *allopathic*—which excites sufferings dissimilar to the disease—Homœopathia can appeal no less triumphantly to final results, in the most rapid and violent diseases, as well as in chronic ones.

But the comparison of intermediate results, at different stages, is attended with more difficulty, and is more likely to mislead the superficial observer, than in the case of the antipathic treatment. Here comes in the question of quality of disease, as well as quantity. The elements of the problem are heterogeneous, and often concealed. The disease, if apparently cured, is displaced by one or more dissimilar diseases, some acute, some chronic. An emetic cures a headache, and at the same time leaves a chronic inflammation of the stomach. A cathartic removes the contents of the bowels—which in ninety-nine cases in a hundred were doing no injury—whilst the cathartic leaves a chronic inflammation of the mucous lining and a paralytic weakness of the muscular coat of the intestines. These practices account for the general prevalence of dyspepsia. The multitudinous arms of this polypus are not more nourished by nostrums than by prescriptions called scientific.

With these lateral impulses of the revulsive method, which throw the disease on some other track—and often on different tracks, some of them concealed in dark tunnels—the patient, if a man of intelligence and reflection, will often be led to doubt whether his apparent amendment is really of any advantage. An intelligent layman yesterday expressed to me his conviction, that “patients often find it as hard to get rid of the medicine as of the disease.” When the new form of disease is chronic and latent, the patient often submits, without complaint, to its future eruptions, as a new dispensation of Providence.

Homœopathy cures a disease without inflicting new ones, acute or chronic. But because the patient feels no explosion of the disease, no laceration of other parts by its fragments, he often doubts whether the medicine has acted. If the evil spirit has not torn him, he doubts whether it has been forcibly expelled.

The immediate morbid effects of a drug, people regard as the proper *working* of the medicine, and common sense—which is often another name for shallow reasoning—teaches them that the more a medicine works, the more it will do. They say, “Doctor, your medicine has not operated.”

Experience has led people to expect some morbid effects from medicines. Morbid effects are regarded as the tests of energy, without considering whether these have any curative tendency.

If a man rides on a rough road, in a carriage without springs, he is very sensible of the motion, though his progress be only six miles an hour. Yet the jars contribute nothing to his progress. They are wasting the force destined to progression. On a smooth railroad, the passenger, seated in a closed car, gliding at the rate of twenty miles an hour, is scarcely sensible of any progress. To the great movements of the globe we inhabit, we are utterly insensible. Whirled around by the diurnal motion, a thousand miles an hour, or several hundreds, according to our latitude, and shooting along the earth's orbit seventy thousand miles an hour, we suffer no jars, we feel no progress. The vulgar eye perceives none; ancient *philosophy* perceived none.

Up to the time of Hahnemann, medical philosophy was equally blind to the curative effects of medicines. Its attention was directed solely to the jarring, the lateral movements. If the drug purged, or sweat or vo-

luted, or excited some other secretion or excretion, then, and then only, it operated. The real, the specific virtues, were overlooked. Rational medicine despised specifics, as the excrescences of science. With Hahnemann they constitute the whole structure. With him originated the first general law for the administration of specifics. This is Homœopathy. With his predecessors, every drug was pressed into the service of some evacuating group, or it was nobody and nothing. Even the arch-agent, mercury, was not permitted to enrol itself, without consenting to head a squad of silalogues, i. e. spitting drugs. Yet this collateral effect is not curative. If mercury salivates in curing, it does not cure *by* salivating. If it purges in curing, it does not cure by purging; neither does rhubarb nor jalap nor any other cathartic, under ordinary circumstances. We might as well estimate the power of a steam-engine by the jarring of the boat, or that of a fire-engine by the leakage from a hose, as that of medicine by the evacuations. Every motion is not progression; every accident is not proper action.

What a destruction of vital power, what a waste of medicinal energy, by such medical engineering! No wonder they are unable to make small doses operate. I shall proceed to show why the followers of Hahnemann *can* make small doses operate. This exposition will include the doctrine of potentization.

There are four *reasons* why Hahnemann's small doses operate. First, They act *directly* on the disordered parts. Secondly, They act in the *right direction*. Thirdly, Disease renders the *parts peculiarly sensitive* to the appropriate medicine. Fourthly, The power of the medicine is exalted by a *peculiar mode of preparation*.

First: The Homœopathic medicine acts *directly* on the part which requires to be influenced, and not on other parts. It acts near at hand, and not at a distance. This circumstance is always favourable to strength of action, and gives small and near things more energy than great and remote ones. The moon has only the one twenty-eight millionth part as much matter as the sun, yet it has three times as much power to raise the tides of our ocean. The cohesion of one clean bullet pressed against another, will suspend it in spite of the attraction of the whole earth. The one is in contact with the thing acted on, the other is at a distance. This is precisely

the relation which the Homœopathic medicine sustains to the revulsive. Revulsive operations are indirect, and often superficial. The machinery of the human body is vastly more complicated than any watch or chronometer, and those parts in which most of the vital processes are carried on, are inconceivably more minute and delicate than the machinery of any time-keeper. To make applications to the skin for an internal disease, is not direct treatment. You would not repair the wheels of a watch by scouring the case. But says one, I go deeper and to the real inside. I purify the intestines. Very well! That is like scouring the brass cap that covers the machinery. It is still a very indirect and superficial expedient. The steam-boiler affords an illustration of the difference between external and internal operations. Some boilers are pervaded by flues. These are mere continuations of the outer surface, as the mucous surface of the intestines is a continuation of the skin. To clear a flue is not cleansing the boiler; so to clear the intestines is not a purification of the system; as the venders of quack cathartics persuade many of the community. It is time for the regular physicians to discountenance such charlatanism.

The medical electricians think they reach the real interior, and apply the force at the right point. It must be conceded, that they use a force which is pervading, and analogous to, if not identical with, the vital forces. But the application of it is necessarily gross and ignorant. They expect to drive a steam-engine by directing a current of steam indiscriminately through all parts of the machinery. Infinitely more preposterous! They expect that a combination of engines with an infinite number of pistons, in an infinite variety of positions—some moving too slowly, others too fast—will have its movements harmoniously regulated, by a great current of steam which shall sweep through the whole in one direction. I would warn the Homœopathic physician against listening to the delusive pretensions of medical electricity as now ignorantly practiced, or invoking it as an auxiliary. This warning may be the more necessary, as he is more a vitalist than a materialist, and attributes great importance to imponderable agents. If animal electricity is intimately concerned in morbid actions, it must be in a way so complicated, that all such projects for its regulation are crude and futile.

Homœopathic medicines are the only true

regulators of animal electricity and of the human organism. The Homœopathic physician is the true engineer of this complicated machinery. Its minutest and most important parts are invisible to him, and equally so to every other anatomist and pathologist, the most learned and the most conceited. Not one of them, in his minutest dissections, has ever seen the real inside of nature, the real vital machinery, the elementary parts, much less the all important—the elementary—vital actions. Both are meta-microscopic. I would not found systems of vital engineering, upon such superficial examinations, nor expect perfect success in any attempt to repair parts so inconceivably delicate, with instruments as coarse as crude drugs. The Homœopathic physician can regulate the invisible machinery of this engine. His tools are delicate and appropriate, and he has learned the law which regulates their application to invisible parts. The infinitely wise and benevolent Contriver has furnished the engine with indices—called symptoms—which point to the particular manipulations required for its regulation. To complete the manifestation of his goodness in regard to this, he has, in the course of his Providence, and through the teachings of Hahnemann, instructed mankind in the use of these indices. To attempt a cure on theoretical principles, regardless of the paramount authority of these indications, is as unwise as to seek the hour of the day by attempting to determine by algebra the position of the wheels of a clock, instead of listening to its striking or looking at its hands. The remedy, selected in accordance with the unerring index, acts upon the very parts which require to be influenced. This contiguity, or proximity of the agent, would of itself render a small dose sufficient and a large dose unsafe.

Had it been customary with the older surgeons to extract *splinters* from the fingers by pounding them with a *hammer*, and some one had ultimately hit upon the expedient of doing it with a needle, should we not have heard a great outcry against the innovation? Says the old orthodox surgeon, "This small-dose system has no efficiency. I have been pounding here for two hours; and the splinter has barely started. My instrument is efficient, as you have evidence in the bruises. Do you think to dislodge the splinter with your insignificant homœopathic needle point? It is contrary to the experience of three thousand years; it is contrary to all analogy. I would

as soon think of harnessing a musketoe before my gig. I have deliberately adopted this maxim, To believe nothing which is incredible, except on evidence which is overwhelming." The surgeon of the new school replies, "Your instrument is ponderous and powerful, but not efficacious. Its force is worse than wasted on the living and distant parts. You might pound the patient to a jelly, before the splinter would come out. If you happen now and then to hit it, you are just as likely to drive it in. My instrument is small but effective. The whole secret consists in applying the force at the right point, and in the right direction."

Allopathia applies her force at the wrong point; Antipathia, in the wrong direction; Homœopathia applies hers at the right point and in the right direction. This *right direction* is the second reason why a small dose suffices. For the proof that the Homœopathic direction is the right one, I rely mainly upon the testimony of experience. When treating of the opposite laws of cure, I have shown that when we at first move the system a little, in nearly in the same direction, the ultimate results are incomparably better than when we attempt instantly to reverse its motion.

There is no absurdity in this. Analogies are in its favour. Medicine is the small *guiding* force; nature the strong impelling power. Nature might impel to destruction, if medicine were not at the helm. The ship's course is not reversed by stopping the wind, or opposing it, but by using it. The pilot does not attempt to *back* his ship against the wind, but turns her about by moving a few moments, nearly in the same direction. Suppose it were necessary to bring back into port, a ship sailing directly away from it before a strong breeze. What would be thought of the captain, who should keep the sails and the helm in their old position, and direct all hands to apply oars, and with all their feeble might, paddle the ship back against the wind, stern foremost? I should infer, first, that he had been educated in the antipathic school; and secondly, that he had never read, that "ships, though great, and driven by fierce winds, are yet turned about by a very small helm."

Thirdly, The efficacy of a small dose—and the danger of a large one—is increased by the peculiarly *sensitive condition of disordered parts*. Suffering with a morbid action similar to that producible by the medicine, they

possess a preternaturally acute sensibility to its influence.

It is unnecessary to illustrate and confirm this principle by examples. They are obvious and numberless. The scalded hand is pained by a distant fire, the inflamed skin by slight percussion, and the inflamed eye by light. The agents, which now with feeble intensity, can severely aggravate the irritation, could, if applied with greater intensity, have originated the inflammation in the healthy parts. But the force which can barely aggravate the existing irritation, could not have irritated the parts when in their normal condition. That kind of irritant which, in the locality in which it acts and in the phenomena which it develops, resembles the cause of any disease, is found by experience to be its proper curative. The excitement which this, given in small doses, produces, is soon followed by melioration of the disease, and ultimately by permanent cure. The dose administered on such a principle should be exceedingly small, and the action of such a dose, given under such circumstances, is not incredible.

We sometimes hear of men—in sound health—going into the chamber of a patient, and swallowing a *tumblerful* of a solution which a Homœopathic physician had left to be administrated in teaspoonful doses. This is a common-sense—that is to say—a shallow—argument against Homœopathy, by very green philosophers. Suppose such a man should visit a patient whose eyes were inflamed, and exceedingly intolerant of light. He finds him in a dark chamber, which has sixty-four panes of glass; but the patient declares, that it irritates his eyes to uncover a single one of them. The visitor declares this to be incredible and absurd; and proves to his own satisfaction the truth of his own position, by raising every curtain, and finding that his own eyes are not injured by the light. If the weak-minded and uninstructed should be gathered into a school of elementary science, the man who swallowed the sixty-four teaspoonfuls, should be placed in the same class with the man who uncovered the sixty-four panes. I know not his residence, but hope he will make it known before such a charitable institution is established.

The fourth reason why Hahnemann's small doses are efficacious is, that the power of the medicine is developed or exalted by a *peculiar mode of preparation*.

The three grand doctrines of Homœopathy

are; First, The law, *Similia similibus curantur*—Medicines relieve affections similar to those which they are capable of producing; Secondly, The doctrine of *dose*—Small doses are most safe and efficacious; Thirdly, The doctrine of *potence*—Medicines are peculiarly powerful after being subjected to sufficient friction or succussion with a suitable quantity of some inert substance.

These doctrines have naturally grown out of each other in the above order. The primary action of the medicine coincides with the disease, and aggravates it. Hahnemann, observing these aggravations to be severe, protracted and dangerous, gradually reduced the dose to a safe point. The determination of this was purely a matter of experience. New experiments were essential, experiments in the use of medicines coinciding with diseases. Allopathic and Antipathic experience, with medicines acting on sound organs to produce revulsion, or on diseased organs in direct opposition to the disease, could never determine the appropriate Homœopathic dose. From a revolution in the therapeutic law, emanated a revolution in doses. From this revolution in posology, emanated the grand discovery of potentization or dynamization. By the doctrine of potency, as discovered by Hahnemann, I mean no physical theory, but only a generalization of practical facts in relation to the reality of the increased power manifested by medicine after having been subjected to Hahnemann's processes. After stating the facts, I shall attempt to give a theory.

When the one-hundredth part of a grain of an insoluble substance was to be administered, the most convenient method was, to mix one grain of it intimately with ninety-nine grains of an inert substance, like *saccharum lactis*, and subsequently divide the mass into one hundred parts. Water, or alcohol—which in minute quantities is almost equally destitute of medicinal properties—served a similar purpose in reducing the dose of liquids and soluble substances. The diffusion of one drop of medicine through ninety-nine of alcohol afforded a ready and exact method of administering the one-hundredth part of the former.

But it was soon discovered that no rule of three, no simple doctrine of proportion, embraced the true theory of doses. The one-hundredth part of a grain thus prepared—instead of retaining only one-hundredth part of the power of the original grain—had a pathogenic or symptom-producing power, not

many times more or less than the whole grain, and a disease-curing power greater even than the whole grain. I state the law thus indefinitely, because the ratios differ for different medicines; and, from the nature of the subject, cannot be determined with great precision for any.

Fortunately for humanity, there is one power of a drug which may be more nearly approximated by the doctrine of proportion, by the rule of three; and that is, the poisonous, the *death-producing* power.

Much of the scepticism that prevails among physicians in regard to the efficacy of small doses, arises from confounding the totally different laws which regulate *curative* and *poisonous* effects. If—as has been usual in the old practice, in many cases of severe disease—remedies were administered in doses which approached the extreme limits of safety, then to double *such* a dose might make the danger from its operation at least two-fold. Conversely, to reduce a poisonous dose by one half, might remove at least one half of the danger; but it by no means follows, that another bisection would abstract one half of the salutary efficiency. In the case of specific medicines—and this is the only class which Homœopathy recognizes—the curative power diminishes much less rapidly than the dose, even in case of crude substances. Of this every old-school physician is aware, in regard to the alterative action of mercury.

That power is nearly proportional to quantity, is a proposition which might be entertained by the chemist or natural philosopher, by the mere physician—the man engaged in considering physical and chemical properties or the mutual actions of inorganic matter—but not by the physician, the man conversant with medical properties, with actions on living bodies. In the mechanical and chemical arts, one pound or one grain of any substance has only the one-hundredth part of the effect of one hundred. The doctrine of the proportionality of power to quantity seems on a partial view to be confirmed by an experience almost universal. Hence the Hahnemannian discovery of the amazing efficacy of infinitesimal doses, has to contend with a general and deep-rooted prejudice, especially among those whose studies have been confined to the properties of dead matter. The immense power of infinitesimal doses is almost equally incredible to the physician, unless he has tried his medicines in the potentized form.

The preparation of minute doses led to attenuations—that is, preparations containing little medicine in a given bulk. The first solution or trituration prepared by the process above described was called the first attenuation. The second was prepared from the first, as the first was from the crude article. The original purpose for which the trituration and shaking were employed, was to produce a uniform diffusion. On trying these preparations as medicines, Hahnemann unexpectedly discovered that they were peculiarly powerful. Hence they were called *potences* or dynamizations. Independently, of all speculative reasoning, the experience of Hahnemann and other Homœopathic physicians has demonstrated, First; That a given weight of any drug in a dilute state, possesses a greater therapeutic power than the same weight of it in the crude or concentrated state. Secondly; That *Hahnemann's method* of diffusing a medicinal substance through a non-medical one, by successive steps or stages in regular progression, and with mechanical force, *developes more curative power* than is developed in an equally dilute mixture or solution prepared in the ordinary way.

Physicians of the old school have made observations confirmatory of the former proposition, especially in relation to *mineral waters*. Prof. Daubeny, of the University of Oxford, alludes to the unquestionable efficacy of certain mineral waters in England, in connection with the fact of their containing only one grain of iodine in ten gallons of the water. He adopts an extremely improbable and unscientific hypothesis, viz. that the iodine imparts its qualities to the other substances with which it is associated.

The truth that Hahnemann's processes are peculiarly efficient in the development of medicinal power, is established by the experience of thousands of intelligent and scientific physicians, who have had a thorough and practical acquaintance with the old medicines and the old method of treating diseases. Believing that theoretical objections prevent many from testing Hahnemann's potences, I shall attempt to give a

THEORY OF POTENTIZATION.

My view, expressed in the most general terms, is, that *Hahnemann's process* *developes the power of a drug by effecting a comminution*, and in no other way. This is the whole secret of that incredible power which experience proves his preparations to possess. Trituration and mix-

ture with *saccharum lactis* promote this development, just so far as they promote comminution, and no farther. The successive steps of centigrade dilution promote this, by subjecting every particle of the medicinal substance to the mechanical, tearing-asunder operation of the non-medicinal one. One man, by Hahnemann's process, can, in a single day, effect a greater comminution of a substance, than could have been effected in a *direct* mixture and trituration, by the combined labour of the whole human race continually operating since the creation of Adam. The labour that built the pyramids is nothing in comparison to that of preparing even the eighteenth potency by such a process, that is, by thoroughly triturating one grain with a sextillion of grains. By Hahnemann's process, the eighteenth trituration is prepared by one man in eighteen hours, one hour being sufficient at each stage for a thorough trituration.

The whole world could not divide a medicinal powder so minutely, either by triturating it with one mass of *saccharum lactis*, or by triturating it by itself. For in the first case, the labour would be enormous on account of the bulk. In the last case, the comminution would attain a limit, and the medicine would be left coarse compared with Hahnemann's.

To triturate one grain of medicinal powder with ninety-nine grains of a hard inert powder, like *saccharum lactis*, effects not merely a wider separation of its original component masses, but a *division* of those masses, and a division more minute than would be practicable by any amount of trituration of the medicinal powder per se. In subjecting one grain of the resulting powder to a similar operation with ninety-nine grains of *saccharum lactis*, in order to obtain the second trituration, we render the groups of medicinal molecules still smaller than in the first trituration. In forming still higher triturations, a reduction in the size of the groups of medicinal molecules must be effected by each successive operation.

The philosopher will not find it difficult to believe, that this division of the medicine might take place many thousands of times, without reducing it to the indivisible particles—the proper atoms—if such exist.

What effect may such division produce in the properties of a substance? This is an inquiry interesting both to the physician and the philosopher. The philosophers of future times will gratefully acknowledge their obligations to Hahnemann, for opening this new field of in-

vestigation. It is the destiny of Homœopathia, not only to effect a glorious revolution in the art of healing, but to lead to new views of the constitution of matter. She is to become the handmaid of physical science, as well as the mistress of practical medicine. Should the great thinkers and experimenters of the age, be once prevailed on to give to the alleged facts of Homœopathy that serious consideration, and that practical examination, which the testimony now existing in favour of its alleged facts, would induce them to give to any accredited physical science, and should they ponder upon the physical aspects of this new science, a vast amount of curious truth in regard to the laws of molecular action might soon be elicited.

Most physicians have practically accorded some virtue to *comminution*. Else why do the pharmacopœias direct a small quantity of opium and ipecac. to be triturated with a large quantity of nitrate of potash, a salt which they regard as inert, but valuable in *Dover's powder*, by its hardness, in effecting the comminution of the opium? They have not so distinctly acknowledged its value in the comminution of the ipecac., nor reflected on the mechanical importance of great mass in the disintegrating agent. But still, they are generally satisfied, that there is some peculiar charm in this pulvis ipecacuanhæ compositus, and that its effect is very different from that of its components, separately triturated and simultaneously administered.

The old materia medica furnishes a striking instance of latent power developed by comminution, in the instance of *mercury*. Quicksilver, or pure mercury, when in mass, is acknowledged by the old school to be an *inert* substance, and when swallowed by ounces to produce, usually, no other than a mechanical effect.

Yet this inert substance is the active ingredient of the pilule hydrargyri, the blue pills. Latent mercurial power is here developed, by triturating the mercury with two or three times its weight of conserve of roses, or some mixture containing sugar, starch or mucilage. The mercurial globules are rendered invisibly small; and this minuteness is the secret of their activity.

The same explanation applies to those few cases in which some mercurial effects have been detected after the use of large quantities of the pure metal in mass. It is easy to believe that a certain portion might become *comminuted in the stomach* or intestines; especially since it has been discovered, that saline solutions, when

placed in a bottle with mercury, divide it into globules. These are coarse compared with our potences, but vary in size with different salts, as hydro-chlorate of ammonia, nitrate of potash, &c.

Even on the supposition that oxidation could take place in forming blue pill, the principal or only cause of the activity would be comminution; as is evident from the similarity of the different mercurial preparations, when given in small doses—the only case in which the proper specific effects can be eliminated and determined. Even the old-school physicians give blue pill, calomel and corrosive sublimate, almost indiscriminately when they aim at proper mercurial effects, by means of small doses. If so active an agent as chlorine is not capable of masking or essentially changing the mercurial power, what could be expected of three or four per cent. of oxygen, except to favour the comminution? In regard to exaltation of proper mercurial power—exclusive of caustic, cathartic and other extraneous properties—chlorine can act on no other principle. In the smaller doses and higher attenuations of the new school, the similarity of different mercurial preparations is still more manifest, even with that nice discrimination of medicinal properties which is peculiar to Homœopathy. The old school uses mercury much oftener, but knows much less about its medical properties.

Where is the evidence that the mercury of blue pill is oxidized? What chemist has detected the oxygen? If it existed, chemistry could separate and exhibit it. No one has pretended to do this. The pharmacæutists can urge nothing but *presumptions*. Murray says, "There is every reason to believe that an oxidation of the metal is effected, and that the medicinal efficacy of the preparation depends on this oxide. Quicksilver, in its metallic state, being inert with regard to the living system, the activity of the preparation itself is a presumption of this; but it is farther known, that by agitation with atmospheric air, quicksilver affords a portion of a grey powder, soluble in muriatic acid, and which must therefore be an oxide, metallic quicksilver being insoluble in that acid." These are his reasons. They are founded on two false assumptions; the first, that the comminution of a substance can have no effect on its medicinal activity; the second, that comminution can have no effect on its solubility. At the same time he inconsistently alleges, that it is sufficient to effect its oxidation, even when the parts are "divided by the interposition of

any viscous matter." If comminuted globules, when perfectly naked, cannot be dissolved in a powerful acid, what reason is there to suppose that when enveloped in a viscid substance, almost impermeable to air, they can readily combine with atmospheric oxygen? One would suppose such an envelopement an awkward expedient for effecting their oxidation.

The colour of blue pill affords no evidence of oxidation. Colour, in numberless other instances, depends on division and mode of aggregation, without any change of composition; as we see in substances chemically identical, such as snow compared with water, and charcoal compared with diamond. Again, the discoloration of mercury is not proportional to the duration of exposure, but to the amount of friction, and commences almost instantaneously when the first attenuation is formed by a rapid machine. Such should not be the facts, if the discoloration depended on oxidation.

That mercury *will* in certain cases produce its specific effects *without oxidation*, is the opinion of the latest and most respectable writers on materia medica and chemistry. Pereira relates that the *vapour* from several tons of mercury in the hold of a vessel, salivated two hundred men, and destroyed all the dogs, sheep and poultry on board, and even the mice. He says, in opposition to those who had supposed an oxidation, that he "believes with Buchner, Orfila and others, that metallic mercury, in the finely divided state in which it must exist as vapour, is itself poisonous."* Here is a distinct recognition of the power of pure mercury to produce the specific effects of blue pill. That these effects were poisonous, was owing to excessive dose. Hahnemann has taught us how to develop curative power by a still finer division, and to cure the most violent disease in a man, by a dose that would not injure a mouse. Pereira, in another passage, with some inconsistency refers to the occasional effects of masses of mercury in the bowels as resulting from oxidation. The Homœopathist, who knows how small a quantity will act, will find no difficulty in attributing them to partial comminution; especially as there may be present some saline or other substances which conduce to the detachment of globules.

Graham, one of the highest and latest authorities in chemistry, alludes to one kind of medicinal mercury which is demonstrably a pure

metal, and to mercury triturated with fat, syrup, &c.—as in forming mercurial ointment and blue pill—as undoubtedly existing in a state of *division merely*, and not of oxidation. The passage is this. "The salts of the red oxide, are reduced to the metallic state by copper and more oxidizable metals, and by the proto-compounds of tin. The precipitated mercury often presents itself as a grey powder, in which the metallic globules are not perceived, and remains in this condition while humid. Mercury in this *divided state* possesses the *medicinal qualities* of the milder mercurials, and has often been *mistaken for black oxide*." * * * * "There can be no doubt that it is in this *divided state*, and not as the black oxide, that mercury is obtained by *trituration* with fat, turpentine, syrup, saliva, &c., in many pharmaceutical preparations."*

The grey powder above alluded to, will run into liquid mercury when the water evaporates. The invisible globules require for their permanent preservation a coating less volatile, as oil. This is a proof that the oxidation of mercury does not readily take place, even in this state of minute division. This also teaches us the actual function of viscid substances, in the blue pill mass, and unguentum hydrargyri. It is, to divide, and keep divided.

Hahnemann's process effects and preserves in the globules, a separation which is wider compared with their diameters, and a division inconceivably more minute, and consequently enhances—to an extent never before conceived of—their salutary energies.

If physicians in all ages had given mercury in no form but that of undivided quicksilver, and in half-pound doses, they would at this day ridicule the man, who should pretend that he had seen powerful alterative effects from the occasional repetition of three or four grain doses of blue pill, each containing one grain of divided mercury. We can conceive with what sincere contempt, those old-school, half-pound prescribers would have viewed such pretensions, when put forth by a few individuals, and with what affected contempt, and half-concealed indignation, when the new doctrine and practice was rapidly overspreading the civilized world. They would say, "It is contrary to the experience of thousands of years, to all analogy, to all reason. Away with your transcendental, infinitesimal nonsense! It is well-

* Pereira's Materia Medica, p. 585.

* Elements of Chemistry, by Thomas Graham, F.R.S. L. & Ed. p. 448.

known that mercury acts only by its mechanical properties—its fluidity and weight. Half a pound will force its way through the bowels, will remove obstructions and purge off the vitiated secretions. You will never clear the system by your grain doses."

To many a conservative champion of old drugs, we might say, This is your portrait and no caricature. "Name changed, the fable speaks of thee." You ridicule the alleged power of Hahnemann's comminuted mercury, simply because you and your predecessors have never tried mercury in a state of more minute division than that in which it exists in blue pill, or hydrargyrum cum creta. If you have developed latent power, by reducing it to globules of a certain degree of minuteness, why may not he have increased the power on the same principle, by rendering the globules still smaller? What you have imperfectly done with mercury, he has done to an extent inconceivably greater, with all his medicines. Your most comminuted medicines are coarse compared with his.

Some have gratuitously alleged, that Hahnemann's doses may answer for Germany, but not for the United States. It seems that according to some undiscovered facts, or for some unspeakable reason, the excitable Americans require large doses.

Others have argued, that the small doses can have little effect in Germany; because a man in that country once swallowed a jack-knife, and was not killed by it. As the allegation of the first party is on a par with the argument of the second, I leave them to settle their dispute, so far as it relates to medical geography.

If I may be pardoned for treating the last party's argument with all the seriousness with which it appears to have been offered, I would say; It has three fallacies. It confounds mechanical and vital effects, regarding them as varying in the same ratio; it confounds hurtful and curative effects, regarding them as varying in the same ratio; and it confounds the effects of fine powders with that of dense masses.

We might say to the whole class of similar reasoners, The pebbles in a turkey's gizzard are infinitely less coarse, compared with your medicines, than yours are compared with ours. We find finely divided quartz, i. e. silica, to be a powerful medicine. You deny it for no better reason, than that its coarser forms are insoluble and inert. You appreciate only the chemical composition, and neglect the mechanical condition. Your blind and headlong phi-

losophy jumps to a conclusion over the wide gulf that separates the massive integral from the inconceivably comminuted.

This kind of philosophy is a hobby extremely useful for riding over facts. Some Grecian genius invented her for that purpose. Since Bacon exposed her defects, she has been in little demand except in the old medical school—a school however that can boast many true followers of Bacon, and wise observers of nature.

A practical physician, of the Baconian stamp, once remarked sarcastically, that he knew of "nobody that had so much leisure to study philosophy, as a *sitting goose*. *She had nothing to do, but to sit and think.*"

The old school is now engaged in this dignified and sublime process of *incubation*. She is taking precisely this method of hatching truth, and unhatching error. With an obstinacy and perseverance worthy of a better cause, and with eyes closed to surrounding nature, she sits on the nest and thinks; she sits and broods over lifeless stones—mistaken for eggs—in the fond hope of a progeny, which shall one day march forth upon the earth, and drive the young Homœopathic chickens back into the shell. Without stirring from her nest to examine the living creatures around her, this sedentary animal has, by the mere inherent power of reason, by long meditation, arrived at the conclusion, that those creatures are sheer phantoms. Without experiment, she has, by the mighty power of sitting without movement, and thinking with closed eyes, demonstrated that Hahnemann's egg will never hatch. Moved by compassion for her hopeless condition, and the disappointment in which her maternal solicitude must eventuate, in vain do we offer her a real egg, for *actual trial*. She rejects the proffered treasure, and repulses the benevolent donor with hisses of contempt and indignation. What has she to do, but to *sit and think*? If any one disturbs this calm and philosophical repose, and urges her to action and vision, what has she to do, but to *hiss*?

That doses of Hahnemann's attenuated medicines possess inconceivably more power than equal quantities of crude substances, is demonstrable by *experience*. Its truth can never be shaken by any theoretical objections, or any inability of its advocates to explain its reasonableness. If nature presented nothing analogous, this one fact would still stand unshaken. But there are

REASONS WHY COMMINATION SHOULD DEVELOPE THERAPEUTIC POWER.

To break a body into fragments increases its *surface*. This augments with every succeeding fracture. A pebble of a grain weight has an immense surface when reduced to an impalpable powder, by simple friction in a mortar. But were it converted into some of the high, and inconceivably fine, preparations, by Hahnemann's process, the stony surface alone—independently of the sugar—might exceed the surface of the globe we inhabit.

The old-school physicians know nothing of the effect of such expansion; they can allege no experience. They cannot deny that such expansion may develop valuable properties in silex and other apparently inert substances, and render active drugs infinitely *more medicinal*, and infinitely *less poisonous* than in the crude state in which they administer them.

Philosophy can allege no reason against this development, exaltation or modification of properties. *Physical science* presents many *analogous phenomena*.—A plate of mica is rendered electrical, by splitting it into thinner laminæ. The free electricity of a body is confined to the surface. The interior contains none. A hollow prime conductor can receive and retain as much free electricity as a solid one of the same superficial extent. The quantity of electricity which a given body can receive may be indefinitely increased. When a large solid ball is divided into smaller ones, much of what was interior becomes surface, and the same weight of matter can receive more electricity. A magnetic bar has no apparent magnetism in the interior, and none at the middle of its surface; but when broken in the middle, it there becomes magnetic, instantly and spontaneously. A collection of small bars at some little distance from each other, is susceptible of being rendered more powerfully magnetic than one large bar of the same weight; in other words, a small magnet can be made more powerful than a large one of the same size.

I would recommend these analogies, as "aids to reflection" for those closet speculators, who, averse to the labour of Homœopathic experiment and the light of direct observation, are sitting quietly in their shady rooms, pondering over the a priori improbability of naked facts, and, after the legitimate period, bringing forth the conclusion, that to make power out of littleness, is contrary to all reason and analogy.

A bundle of rods has been regarded as an

emblem of associated strength. But mechanical notions might often mislead in physics and therapeutics. In drawing off the electricity of a prime conductor, a single wire directed toward it at a certain distance, may have a hundred times as much power as a compact bundle of thick wires. The single point is put in a favorable state by induction; but the neighboring points by counterinductive influence mutually tend to *neutralize the action* of each other. The electroscope shows a striking contrast between the power of a solitary point, and the comparative inefficiency of many. But when the wires of the fasciculus are widely separated, and presented simultaneously, they no longer occasion this mutual neutralization, and their combined efficiency will be found to have increased, a thousand-fold or more according to their number and mutual distance. The round numbers above employed are not to be understood as the result of any calculation. Instead of exaggerating, they are far within the limits of what could be realized.

The above facts in relation to pointed conductors, and the neutral zone of a magnet, show that certain *properties* possessed by small groups of molecules are removed, *masked*, or rendered latent, by the *proximity* of similar groups. They show that properties or powers are created or *developed* by the *division* of substances, or the separation of the parts of a mass, and again destroyed or rendered latent by the reunion of those parts.

I believe this physical principle to be extremely comprehensive and important in its applications, and to afford a key to the explanation of that astonishing development of power which takes place during the preparation of Hahnemann's attenuations. In the crude state of drugs, the medicinal power of any particle of the drug is weakened or annihilated, by the presence of many similar particles in its immediate vicinity; the particles at the *surface* being the only ones which are not thus surrounded, and consequently the only ones which possess *activity*. If a medicinal drug is by solution divided into molecules sufficiently small to be admissible into the smallest bloodvessels, and is in that state introduced into the blood, and glides along the inner coats of the vessels, making its specific electrical impression on the nerves, I believe it would be only the superficial parts of each molecule that would exert any action. The interior parts would be powerless, like the interior of an electrical ball or the middle of a magnetic bar.

This want of action would not be from want of contact. If absolute mathematical contact were requisite, no particle of matter could ever act on another. Neither nature nor art has ever brought two particles of matter into strict and absolute contact. That degree of proximity which produces repulsion, cohesion, affinity, or any other physical, chemical or vital action, that is not manifested at sensible distances, is called contact. When we bring the hand so near a body as to feel repulsion, we say it is in contact. This case affords man his primary idea of contact. When two polished leaden balls are by mutual pressure made to cohere, we are sure there is contact, because we felt repulsion, both prior and subsequent to the coherence. Yet there is no absolute contact in these cases. By a still stronger pressure, the hand may be brought still nearer the ball, the balls still nearer each other. All action is at some distance, though that distance is sometimes infinitesimal.

The surface of a medicinal particle may act when within a certain distance of the nerve; the whole interior might be inert, though it were brought much nearer the nerve than the surface is when the surface acts.

If this is so, it explains *why division gives power*; for it gives greater surface. If we reduce the diameter to a thousandth part, we increase the total surface a thousand-fold, if to a millionth a million-fold, &c.

Of all artificial methods of minutely dividing matter, that of Hahnemann is the most efficient; and effects a comminution otherwise unattainable by art. Why then is it incredible that it should have developed powers never before dreamed of? Who can say that if ponderable matter were made sufficiently fine, it would not exhibit as astonishing powers as light, caloric or electricity? Who can say that these imponderable agents do not derive their activity from that very circumstance?

The higher attenuations are, in one sense, *imponderable* agents. Their medicinal part has no appreciable weight. Like light, caloric and electricity, they possess great activity. Like them they can never accumulate in the system in ponderable, poisonous masses. Like heat and electricity, they escape as readily as they entered. They leave none of their material to clog or corrode the machinery.

A man betrays great ignorance, who accuses an acknowledged Hahnemannian of charging the system with poisons or with leaving it charged with anything. He might as well

suppose that a man lately arrived from a hot and distant country had, during his residence there, become more and more charged with heat, and had brought an excessive quantity of it with him; or that a metallic conductor by the frequent transmission of electricity, becomes thereby charged with lightning; or that a three days' speaker in Congress must sit down full of wind; or that a steam engine by long working becomes charged with steam, or an undershot wheel with water.

These last agents are analogous to the comminuted medicines, in regard to the non-lodgement of material. In another respect, the comparison fails. The action is not mechanical, but vital; not a gross impulse, but a delicate influence; not proportional to mass, but to activity. It is the action of an imponderable agent on the imponderable elements of life.

I believe, that the principle thus applied to the developement of medicinal power, presents no anomaly, but is applicable to other properties, as well in the nascent as in the evanescent condition of bodies.

Minute microscopic bodies in their nascent state, often exhibit properties which are masked by the presence of additional particles, whenever the dimensions have increased to a certain extent. I have seen this beautifully exhibited in *crystallizable* substances in solution. When one part of saturated tincture of camphor is mixed with five parts of alcohol, and the crystallization observed with a solar microscope, the smallest nascent crystals which are visible, are seen to approach each other by mutual attraction, and to rotate on their axes, so as to unite by their mutually attractive poles. These compound groups then present similar phenomena, in their mutual approach, their rotation and union. I have witnessed similar phenomena in nitrate of silver and other crystals. Large crystals of the same substances exhibit no such attraction or polarity. Even ice, which in large masses has no magnetism, may exhibit magnetic properties when beginning to form minute crystals in the atmosphere.

The theory of potentization, so far as above given, consists of two parts; one relating to comminution, as the result of certain processes; the other, to power as the result of comminution.

I have shown; First, that Hahnemann's processes produce a comminution almost infinitely surpassing any which is practicable by any other method; Secondly, that comminution develops latent power.

I have incidentally alluded to another advantage which comminuted medicines possess, in the delicacy of the human organism. The invisible vessels and pores are, in all probability, inconceivably more numerous and minute than the visible ones. It may be in these narrow recesses of the system, that nature carries on her most important operations, and disease lays her foundations. To modify those operations, and overturn those foundations, it may be important, that the medicine should enter straits impassable and chambers inaccessible, by any substances whose parts are as gross as those of ordinary powders and solutions. For this additional reason, the powders and solutions prepared by Hahnemann's method—which divides the medicine into parts inconceivably smaller—may possess peculiar power. The comminution effected in ordinary medicines by solution in the mouth, the stomach and the blood, leaves them coarse in comparison with medicines which may be prepared by Hahnemann's processes.

There is still another advantage which small medicinal particles may have over large ones: viz. that when in contact with any living part, the *average distance* of their whole surface—as well as substance—from the points of contact, is less than it would be if they were in one group. This advantage might be very great, if medicinal action, like other forces, varies inversely as the square, or some higher power of the distance.

In endeavouring to explain the efficiency of Hahnemann's potences, I have, hitherto, not specially adverted to the distinction between *liquid* and *dry* preparations. We find repeated solution with succussion, and repeated mixture with trituration, to develop similar powers, and have reason to believe the principles similar. *As a part of the theory of potentization*, I shall attempt to give a

THEORY OF SOLUTION.

It is generally believed, that the simple solution of a medicine, effects the minutest division of it which is practicable, and that no dilution of any dissolved substance, can divide its parts into parts still smaller. In calling in question the correctness of this notion, I am aware of the strength of the *prejudices* to be encountered—prejudices both of the senses and intellect. For deciding such a point, there is no adequate delicacy in human vision nor in the instruments of physical research; nor is the human mind so constituted, as to be capable of any adequate conception of the minuteness of ulti-

mate atoms, or of the infinite diversity of magnitude existing among infinitesimals. When a body is divided into parts so small as to elude microscopic vision and our most delicate tests, it is difficult to conceive of any farther division. Yet these parts may still be divided such an inconceivable number of times, that we may call the number infinite. The change thus produced in a medicine may be appreciated by means of those nerves on which it has a specific action, but not by means of any instrument less delicate.

The unparalleled *sensibility* of these nervous electroscopes or pharoscopes, is exemplified in the powerful action of some homœopathic solutions, in which the chemist, with his comparatively coarse—but in his own estimation most delicate—tests, can detect no medicine, and in which he could detect none, were they concentrated millions of millions of times. Yet millions of persons, including Homœopathic physicians and their patients, have repeatedly experienced the efficiency of such attenuations. The number, competency, integrity and unanimity of the witnesses, are such as would secure the reception of their testimony on any other subject.

If we can sufficiently divest our own minds of the prejudices of the grosser senses, let us imagine a saturated aqueous solution of any salt, to consist of hard, solid masses of salt, suspended at equal distances in the water, which exceeds the salt in quantity. Each mass of salt consists of innumerable particles. It is impossible to make them smaller either by the continued action of the affinity of the water, or by any mechanical force, whilst the *quantity of water* remains the same. If they were sundered, they would instantly reunite. For, any division of the solids into smaller solids, would diminish their mutual distance, and consequently increase their mutual attraction; whilst the quantity of water which surrounds each mass is diminished in quantity, and hence has less attractive force to resist the reunion of the solids, than it had when they were in larger masses; and even then it was but just sufficient to keep them separate. Therefore any division would be followed by instantaneous reunion, both on account of an increase in the cohesive forces, and a diminution of affinity.

Another piece of salt cannot be dissolved in the water, for the same reason that the pieces already in it cannot be divided; that is, the saline masses cannot be suspended within a *given distance*.

Heat expands the liquid and increases the solvent power, partly by weakening cohesion, and partly by removing the solids to a greater distance from each other, so that new solids may be received. Either evaporation or cold reduces their distance and effects their reunion and precipitation.

Thus the hypothesis of a suspension in complex groups, each consisting of numerous particles, is in strict accordance with the known phenomena of solution.

It is also analogous to the doctrines of modern chemistry in relation to the union of molecules in all compounds. Simple molecules unite to form compound ones; and in many instances it requires the union of many atoms of each constituent to form the smallest possible particle of a given compound. In the most attenuated solution, this compound, as it is not decomposed, must exist in groups which are large compared with atoms. For convenience, I use the language of the atomic theory: upon the truth of this, however, my hypothesis does not depend; any more than the truth that the great constituents of the universe are arranged in groups, depends upon the solution of the question whether the division of matter must ultimately attain a limit, or whether even the moon is or is not an atom.

Astronomy presents facts analogous to those supposed in the above hypothesis of solutions. The worlds of the universe are separated by large interstices. Two nebulae may appear to our eyes as homogeneous as a solution; and yet each is a group of solar and planetary groups, whose mutual distances are inconceivably great compared with that of the planets of each group, and yet inconceivably small compared with the distance of the nebulae. A nebula is a single body, in a truer sense than are two stars of different nebulae. The solar system is one thing in a stricter sense than are two planets of different systems. So I have referred to the groups in a solution as bodies, because widely separated as compared with their components. It is possible that there may be included in each group—as there are in a nebula—different orders of groups, which determine the points of easier division. We know that to be to a certain extent true in chemical compounds, as solution does not divide them in all parts indiscriminately, else it would destroy their peculiar chemical properties.

I have hitherto considered saturated solutions. Before proceeding to attenuation in any

higher sense, I will—for those who may not consider the subject too dry, and who desire the most precise ideas—explain more fully some of the molecular actions above referred to.

What is cohesion? When are molecules united in one group? When is the group divided? In what sense is medicinal power at the surface?

Cohesion is attraction between bodies or particles of the same kind at insensible distances. In molecular action, I make no attempt to distinguish the cases in which polarity is manifest, as in crystals; for all cohesion may depend on the polarity and even the magnetism of molecules.

If a group of atoms exists as a little solid body in a solution, and we are able, by adding more liquid to break it into two groups or bodies, in what sense are they two until they get beyond the sphere of cohesion? If still in contact, they are one group. In the mechanics of infinitesimal bodies, we must use the term contact in a stricter sense. The contact of the infinitesimal solid parts of a solution, is such a degree of proximity as excludes the solvent liquid.

The view which I take—and which is calculated to remove one of the greatest obstacles to the reception of Homœopathic truth—is, that the ultimate particles of a dissolved medicine are not separately invested with the menstruum or solvent liquid, but united in hard and complex masses—masses which, in a saturated tincture or solution, are of great magnitude and little activity, when compared with those in Hahnemann's attenuations. The free medicinal agency resides exclusively at the surface of the group, the latent at the surface of each particle. I make no attempt to decide, whether the medicinal power is or is not a modification of electricity or magnetism; or whether, like the former, it resides on the whole surface, or, like the latter, on certain parts. On either supposition, division will have a similar effect in increasing the extent of active surface. Electricity and magnetism are known to be in one sense identical, but to avoid circumlocution they are referred to as distinct.

You will readily anticipate the application of the above principles to attenuations. When a drop of pure tincture is shaken with ninety-nine of alcohol, the newly added alcohol exerts its affinity as an antagonist to the cohesion of the solid medicinal groups, and effects their

dismemberment to a greater extent than was possible in the primary solution. This process commences instantly, before the diffusion is complete. But to simplify the investigation, let us suppose the drop to be uniformly diffused before any disintegration of the groups commences. The groups would be at nearly five times their original distance, and each group would be surrounded by one hundred times as much alcohol as in the primary tincture. This state of things could not remain a moment; especially if the disruptive power of the affinity of this increased quantity of alcohol, were aided by a mechanical succussion, as strong as that to which the tincture had been subjected. For the equilibrium before existing between cohesion and affinity, will be disturbed by that increase of the latter which results from the increase of the liquid; and the suspended solids will each be sundered into numerous smaller solids. But it is not divided into its smallest particles; nor could it be by the most violent succussion. The vibrations caused by jars, transiently increase the distance of some particles of each group and approximate them to the liquid, and thus give affinity a preponderance over cohesion. In this way succussion aids division. But to carry division by this means beyond a certain point, effects no permanent change; as the particles will instantly reunite by the preponderance of cohesion over affinity. As power is developed on a similar principle by successive dilutions, it is unnecessary to pursue this subject any farther.

Power is developed on the same principle as in dry preparations. The affinity of the liquid enables us to dispense with part of the mechanical force: yet all that I have said in regard to the relative labour of comminuting by Hahnemann's method as compared with any former one, applies equally to liquid preparations.

His *discovery* of a new law in the science of therapeutics, and his *invention* of a new process in the art of pharmacy, have led to unprecedented results. The most insoluble bodies are dissolved, inert substances rendered medicinal, and the most virulent poisons harmless; whilst drugs of intermediate activity have their salutary powers exalted, and their noxious effects obviated.

The main *objects* of this discourse, have been to show, That small doses are efficacious when given in accordance with the Homœopathic law; That medicines prepared by Hahnemann's process are in a state of extremely minute

division; That on this comminution their peculiar efficacy depends; And that the development of power by separation of parts is not an anomaly, but is in accordance with known laws of nature.

Just as the printing of the above paper is nearly completed, I find in the Bridgewater treatise of Dr. Prout—than whom few have more profoundly studied the molecular constitution of bodies—the following passage, which is in accordance with some of the above views.

"In this respect, therefore, the views we have advanced accord generally with those at present entertained; and the only point in which they differ, is in supposing that the self-repulsive molecule, as it exists in the gaseous form, does not represent the ultimate molecule, but is composed of many of them. With respect to the nature of the ultimate sub-molecules of those bodies which we consider at present as elements, as, for instance, of oxygen, they may naturally be supposed to possess the most intense properties or polarities. Indeed such sub-molecules may be imagined to resemble in some degree the imponderable matters, heat, &c., not only by their extreme tenuity, but in other characters also; and this very intensity of property and character may be reasonably considered as one, if not the principal reason, why they are incapable of existing in a detached form. Lastly, are not these ultimate and refined forms of matter extensively employed in many of the operations of nature, and particularly in many of the processes of organization?" B. F. J.

7, Amity Street, March 27th, 1847.

DR. STEARNS AND THE NEW YORK ACADEMY.

Review of "An Address delivered on the occasion of assuming the chair, as President at the first regular meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, February 3d, 1847. By JOHN STEARNS, M. D. [Published by order of the Academy.]"

The Rev. Dr. Whately says, "in proportion as any great measure gains ground in public estimation—in proportion as it tends to overthrow prevailing errors—in the same degree it may be expected to call forth angry declamation from those who are wedded to prejudices they cannot defend." The truth of this remark is exemplified in the violent and intolerant manner in which Allopathy has borne

herself lately against her great rival Homœopathy, as the latter has gained ground in public estimation. But a few years ago our Allopathic brethren, albeit they did not believe in our doctrines, yet they willingly met us in counsel at the bedside of the sick, though we could not agree as to the medical treatment. In that respect, differing kindly, we nevertheless could agree as to the seat and nature of the disease. But within the last year they have grown bitter, unjust and abusive. They have formed themselves into an association and styled it the *New York Academy of Medicine*—made it a prominent rule that no Homœopathist should be eligible to membership—and that no member should consult with a Homœopathist. The reason for this intolerant act can alone be found in the fact, that Homœopathy with the public is rapidly gaining ground, and they would stop or cripple it in its advance. They would assume that they are the regular descendants of Esculapius—that all who are not of their way of thinking are “irregulars,” no matter how well educated; and they would appropriate, all the facts which have been brought to light for the last five hundred years in anatomy, surgery, chemistry, physiology and pathology, while our school studies and adopts them all. This truly absurd assumption reminds us of the St. Regis Indians in Canada. In the midst of their wigwam stands a stately stone building with a tall steeple, but of which edifice, not one of them has been either directly or indirectly instrumental in laying a single stone. If by chance you should meet one of that tribe away from his home, and enquire whence he comes, he will answer thus: “Do you know that large stone church in St. Regis?” and if you shall nod assent, then, with look of swelling assumption, he will reply, “*That’s me.*” It has been said by an eminent Allopathic physician, “very few of the valuable discoveries in medicine have been made by physicians; they have been either the effect of chance or necessity, and have always been opposed by the faculty, till every one else was convinced of their importance.” This address of Dr. Stearns, is no doubt the embodied spirit of the new Academy. Instead of looking within and seeking what weaknesses need strengthening—what practices need reforming, he at once commences his attack upon things without, and the reader feels at once that they are the besieged, and the Academy is the house of refuge. He informs the Society that every age has had

its impostors in medicine, and that by them, human life has been sacrificed by thousands. *What has Allopathy been about all this time?* She has been in existence ever since quackery had its birth. If there were healing in her touch, why do people madly wander off in search of health, even to impure sources? They love health, as they love life. But the worthy President would have us believe that Allopathy has stood by all this time with arms folded, waiting to be invoked to give the blessing. He says, “Thousands have already fallen a sacrifice to these multiplied impostures, whose blood is daily invoking the aid of the medical profession to arrest their progress. Duty to God, to the profession, to the memory of the fallen victims, and to mankind, compel us to respond favourably to the invocation.” He admits that medicine in the dark ages was not reliable, and thinks under such circumstances there was some apology for imposture and for a deluded people. But “when medical science assumes a prominent place in the Temple of Fame—when the practice of physic and surgery never before attained to such unrivalled success—when diseases, before deemed incurable, now promptly yield to the skill of the scientific and judicious practitioner—when surgery has attained an unrivalled eminence in the performance of operations deemed impossible, until their perfect success was practically demonstrated by some of our own members, who have thereby justly earned imperishable renown—when a thirst for improvement in science, literature, and the arts, pervades every class in society,—then, at this enlightened period of the world, arose a Hahnemann.” This, to the worthy self-satisfied President, is an astounding fact, that a man having common sense should imagine, that in the midst of such a galaxy of medical splendour he could add one more ray of light, or that more light was needed. We would inform the learned President that though Anatomy, Surgery, Physiology, Chemistry and Pathology may have advanced, that Therapeutics had stood still—that the art of curing stands where it stood five hundred years ago, and that when the learned President points to the triumph of Surgery, it does not help his case. Riel, in speaking of modern practice, says: “I have long enough been tossed on the sea of unfounded hypothesis to feel convinced that absolute darkness prevails in the medical practice.” Boerhaave calls the physician a fortunate man, if positively he does not injure his patient. Here indeed is a

loud call for reformation; and, in this branch, a demand for the genius and wisdom of Hahnemann. Speaking of innovators, the learned President says, "some of these innovators, just arrived in the scientific world, and disgusted with a science which they admit they never practiced, and consequently could not comprehend." We cannot believe the learned President here refers to Hahnemann. We suppose he is too well read to be ignorant of the life of so distinguished a medical man; and, we hope, above the meanness of insinuating a falsehood to gain at most, a temporary end. Hahnemann studied medicine as a profession, practiced Allopathically for many years, but his acute mind perceived and lamented its weakness, before he made his great discovery of the law of cure, which paled that lesser light which has so dazzled the eyes of the worthy President. The learned and accomplished Dr. Forbes, though in the front rank of Allopathy, speaking of Hahnemann, says, "he was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar." The learned President is certainly very apt in his figure, when he says "the system is now flowing in upon us in torrents—not like those genial showers, which invigorate and refresh the mown grass, but which, possessed of lethal qualities, bear a stronger resemblance to those which inundated and desolated two ancient cities." Homœopathy is destined to drown out Allopathy, because it is a universal law that truth will prevail. And when we consider the rapidity of its advance, both in the East and in the West, it indeed seems to move something like a torrent—because the age is enlightened. It cannot descend like gentle dew upon Allopathy, for its stern and naked facts are opposed to its theories and hypotheses, and it is bound to produce a radical change in the theory and practice of medicine. The feeblest part of this intellectual effort is, when the President attempts to analyse the doctrines of Hahnemann. In the effort, we did not expect to see our system tremble to its base, but we did expect to see the Doctor's hand at least laid upon it; but to our surprise he touched it not; no, not so much as even with the tip of his finger. He entirely misapprehends the doctrines of Hahnemann. He says, "reason teaches me that the power of any remedial agent essentially depends on the number of grains, ounces, or pounds of which that agent consists. But Hahnemann contradicts this position, and maintains directly the reverse, and asserts that the power of that agent is increased precisely in proportion to

the subdivision, the comminution or dilution of its component parts." We would ask what power the worthy President means. There is more than one kind of power; there is a mechanical power and a remedial power; but he illustrates his meaning. He says, "if one pound of gunpowder will propel a cannon ball one mile, the millionth part of a grain would carry it round the globe, and produce the greatest possible destruction of life." This is an illustration of mechanical power. In no work of Hahnemann's can such absurdity and nonsense be found. Would Dr. Stearns assert that a remedial power of a remedial agent essentially depends upon the number of grains, ounces or pounds; that is to say, if one grain of calomel will cure, that a pound will make a better cure? We should almost be led to infer that the Allopathic school, heretofore, had adopted that belief, from the quantity of medicine given; but, thanks to Homœopathy, they have now altered the rule, and are ready to declare "that they do not give as much medicine as formerly." The worthy President and his Academy like not the restless movements and matter of fact spirit of our age. We say, thanks to this spirit. Introduced into the sciences, it has superseded the reign of opinions by that of observation, and has caused them to make more progress in fifty years than they had done before since the beginning of the world. They feel as if they were left behind in this onward march of improvement, and they exclaim against it as an innovation—would erect ramparts to stay its progress, at least among themselves. While they consulted with the Homœopathist, they had some opportunity of hearing the truth; but that way is now closed up by this Academy. It has been well remarked, "that few improvements are expected from a man who dreads he might ruin his character by even the smallest deviation from the established rule." We believe that this Academy is an iron net-work, thrown over the heads of those who enter it, and will insure one universal dead level; beyond this iron fixture they will never look. We are sorry for them, for they have heads that deserve a better fate. In corroboration of this state of things, we must again quote our learned President: "The present all-absorbing propensity for innovation, indicating danger to the community, and degradation to that noble science which it is our professed object to cultivate and improve, calls loudly for some efficient ramparts to protect and shield its vital principles against

every grade of amalgamation with the popular delusions of empiricism. Do not the state of the public mind, and the signs of the times in both the religious and medical world, indicate an approaching period when it will be inscribed over the portals of the halls of science, 'ILium fuit'?"

We expected from a school which employs large and poisonous doses—in a school which seeks to produce effects on the parts that are healthy to draw off actions from parts that are diseased—that they would endeavour to make abundant sport of the small doses administered by the Homœopaths, and would hold them up in comparison with their Heroic practice, without an allusion to the difference of principle upon which those doses are prescribed. For this we were prepared, but we must confess we did not expect that the spirit of partisanship would hurry them to the assertion of an untruth. Yet Dr. Stearns, with an inconsistency we cannot explain, derides our practice on the grounds of infinitesimal doses, and in the next paragraph asserts "that poisons and narcotics constitute the corner-stone of the Homœopathic edifice—the alleviation of pain by narcotics gives to their practice all its popularity." In this utterly false statement, he thereby admits that our practice is popular, and that our doses will alleviate pain.

How hard it is for the human mind to change opinions and habits of thought which it has pursued for years. After it has reached a certain period, we believe it cannot be corrected even by the evidence of the senses. Having ears they cannot hear; eyes and cannot see. It is a well ascertained fact of the medical men, great and small, cotemporaries of Harvey, not one who had reached the age of forty when his great discovery of the circulation of the blood was announced, but who died opposing it. The cotemporaries of Galileo would not look through his telescope, when invited, asserting that it was contrary to the laws of vision; and the New York Academy and their worthy President *will not look into* Homœopathy, but assert it is contrary to reason.

And they know nothing of its internal evidence, and the external evidence they reject; for the venerable President sees that the popular feeling is with Homœopathia and admits in, and, like Pharaoh, he is hardened. He says, "I have often heard it asserted that the clergy are advocates of Homœopathy." This he knows to be a fact. He knows that the clergy, as a body, are intelligent and well-

educated—trained to reason. He knows that from the nature of their profession, they are brought into contact with the sick more than any other class of the community save the physician; and that it is not to the sick under one treatment that he is called, but to those under every treatment, and his evidence should have weight with an unprejudiced mind. How does the President receive their testimony in favor of Homœopathia?—

He puts back to them this question: "How can a religious man support a system which places reason and common sense at defiance, and which rests exclusively on the vagaries of a visionary enthusiast?"

"The general avowal of such principles would subvert all true religion and civil government, and lead to consequences appalling to all reflecting minds."

This seems to us like the ravings of a disordered mind; and if this is a fair specimen of the logic, and wisdom, and spirit of the New York Academy, then, indeed, in a few more years, will the fears of its President be realized, and it will be inscribed over the portal of their Hall,—"*ILIUM FUIT.*"

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.

We intended to treat more fully of the diseases of children and their management in this volume; but other subjects of more immediate importance have claimed our columns.

We hoped, especially, to speak of diet and exercise. These are two important subjects connected with the management of children, and should be urged upon the attention of parents. Exercise in pure air is absolutely essential to strength and vigor of constitution. The too prevalent practice of confining young children in warm and not well ventilated rooms is reprehensible; and the means for giving them that exercise which nature indicates and demands are by far too limited. They have been too much dependent on the attention and direct physical exertions of mothers and nurses for any training of this sort, and they are consigned to the cradle or the sitting stool, by way of relief to the tiresome and fatiguing necessity of "tending the baby."

We have seen in use a contrivance, which in our opinion is admirably adapted to afford the means of exercise so much needed, and to obviate many of the difficulties of which we complain. By means of an elastic (Indian

rubber) strap, suspended from the ceiling, to which is appended a dress to fit the waist, and straps for its support—affording an unconstrained position—the child is enabled to toss and dangle itself; thus relieving the nurse of this irksome and requisite operation, and is a great saving of time to the “baby tender.” It is left the free use of its limbs, by which it secures to itself amusement and exercise; and is enabled to escape from the pernicious passivity, confinement and rocking of the cradle. To those whose time is valuable, and to the poor, who are compelled to take care of their own infants, the contrivance must be invaluable.

They are fitted up, some in an elegant and costly manner, while others are at a price within the reach of all. We regard it as an ingenious and valuable invention, and think its use cannot be too general: this should always be in a well-aired room, or in the open air.

It may be seen and procured at No. 309, Broadway.

TRAUMATIC TETANUS.

The following case was reported to the New York Homœopathic Society by Dr. Kirby. By resolution of the Society, its publication in the American Journal of Homœopathy, was requested.

“In January last a case of this disease occurred in my practice, in the person of a young miss, aged nine years. She had been suffering for two or three days with neuralgic pains in the neck, arms, legs and lower part of the abdomen, with stiffness of the jaws; also entire loss of appetite and sleep. When I first saw her, the above symptoms were present with a permanent contraction of the flexor muscles of the extremities; and occasionally a rigidity of the neck, with a tendency to opisthotonos. The cause of this condition was not known at this time. The pain was terrific,—causing the most heart-rending moanings and screams. The paroxysms would come at irregular periods. The intermissions sometimes only a few minutes; at other times, an hour or two. The paroxysms would last from half to two, three, and even more hours. Sometimes they would seem to be brought on, and increased, by movement—occasionally movement would mitigate the sufferings, or cause them to subside altogether. During the paroxysms the pain was increased by touch. Aconite, Bella-

donna and Pulsatilla had been given her previously to my first visit, but without any perceptible relief. I gave Rhus: tox: 30, after which she had no pains for about four hours; when they returned with equal violence. Rhus: was repeated, but with less favorable effect.

“I remained with my patient the whole night—she slept in all about two hours. She took a single dose of sulphur, and two or three doses of pulsatilla, with no apparent improvement. The following morning her sufferings were increased, if possible, in violence. The muscles of the neck, extremities, and abdomen became more rigid, and stiffness of the jaws returned. *Belladonna* in solution, 3d att., was given, and often repeated. The stiffness of the jaws and rigidity of the muscles of the neck went off in about two hours, and never returned. In other respects she was the same. In the evening of this day, a consultation was had with my colleague, Dr. Snow. In conversation with the patient and her mother, he related a case of similar sufferings in a child, from a wound by a needle in the knee joint. Immediately our patient exclaimed that she had run a needle into the joint of the great toe of the right foot, about two days previously to the pains coming on. On examination, the toe was found to be sore, and touching it, or any of the parts about it, would induce a paroxysm.

“The nature of the case was now apparent. An Arnica poultice was applied to the part, and Arnica administered internally in alternation with Rhus: tox: The paroxysms were now diminished in frequency and in intensity. [Staphysagria was given, but with no perceptible effect.] The patient continued gradually to improve under the above treatment; sleep and appetite returned, and a dose of Sulph: 30, followed in 24 hours by a single dose of Rhus: tox: 30, completed the cure in about six days from my first visit.”

BROMINE IN CROUP.

We have received a communication from Wm. E. Payne, M. D., of Bath, Me., on the use of Bromine in Croup. He details a case which was promptly cured by its timely administration. We have not room for the paper in this number of our Journal.

JAHK'S NEW MANUAL.

The publication of this important work progresses. No. 2 is out and ready for sale.

The names connected with the translator's should be a guarantee of the fidelity of the translation, and by some of them the work will be enriched by contributions of useful facts.

It will furnish the most extensive and complete history of drugs which it is possible at present to have, and will be a great addition to that already in the hands of the profession,

The characteristic of our materia medica is, that it is an accumulation of well-ascertained facts, which are the pride and boast of the Homœopathist; and we earnestly hope everything of a speculative and theoretical character will be carefully excluded from it.

Positive knowledge is all that can be of value, and it alone ought to find its way into a work of this kind. There are other and more appropriate places for theories and speculations.

This enterprise on the part of Mr. Radde is of vast importance to our profession. It must involve great expense, and we hope he will, as he richly deserves, be fully sustained.

NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

This is an establishment of great importance to our school. To be able to obtain pure medicine, in the different states of preparation used in the Homœopathic practice, and at an expense which supercedes the necessity of the physician's attempting the preparation of them himself is a great desideratum. Mr. Smith is, we understand, running up to the highest degrees of dynamization, some of the medicines in more common use. Those imported a year or two since by Dr. Hempel, have, we believe, been mostly disposed of by Messrs. Radde and Smith, to physicians throughout the country. A vast amount of time and labor is requisite to the making of these potencies. This, together with the cost of importation, and the high duties charged, made the German preparations costly. We have used the attenuations of Mr. Smith, and have every reason to rely upon their strength and purity. He is an intelligent and thoroughly careful Pharmaceutist, and is entitled to the full confidence of the profession.

The friends of Homœopathy in Washington, D. C., can obtain this Journal, by leaving their names with W. ADAMS, of that city.

Those who read *Dr. Joslin's Discourse* will please correct the following *typographical errors*:—

Page 271. For "*nitrate*," read *sulphate*.

" 272. For "*was rapidly*," read *were rapidly*.

" 273. For "*Its truth*," read *This truth*.

" 274. For "*a small magnet*," read *small magnets*.

We have received a communication from Mr. Radde, on the subject of the reply of Dr. Humphreys to Dr. Hempel's review of his (Dr. F.'s) translation of the *Symptomen-Codex* of Jahr, intended to correct one or two state ments which Dr. F. is said to have erroneously made. We have not room for the communication. Mr. Radde claims to have advertised the publication of the work in the *Examiner*, and only delayed getting it out in order to make, if possible, an arrangement with the English publisher, and to receive contributions which he had been promised from prominent physicians of the school.

Our readers will perceive, that we have given them double the usual quantity of matter in this number of the Journal. This has been done to make room for the able address of Dr. Joslin, which, we do not doubt, will be acceptable to the friends of Homœopathy. This paper of Dr. J.'s, should not only be read, but studied. The style he has adopted in its composition, is not only clear, but fascinating—abounding in wit. The unscientific and shallow objections to Homœopathy, by Allopathic physicians, are fully stated and exposed.

As the next number of the Journal completes the first volume, we hope we may be excused for again reminding those who have not paid, that it would greatly oblige us to receive the price of subscription. We shall commence the new volume on the first of May, and we trust, the friends of Homœopathy will give it an extended circulation. It is our object and purpose, without regard to any personal considerations, to make the Journal a means for the diffusion of the principles of Homœopathy, and the advancement of its interests. At the price at which it is published, no profit can accrue from it, and we hope the profession, equally with ourselves, will feel interested in aiding its success. With scarce an effort, every physician might, as many have, give us a number of lay subscribers, and find their own interests promoted.

The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses, on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North Fourth Street.

BONNINGHAUSEN'S THERAPEUTIC POCKET-BOOK.

Just received, a few copies of "Bonninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket-Book for Homœopaths; to be used at the bedside of the patient and in the study of the Materia Medica." Edited by A. Howard Okie, M.D., translator of "Hartmann's Remedies," "Ruoff's Repertory," &c. &c.

For sale at SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY, 488 Broadway. Price \$1.25.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY AT THE Apollo Rooms, 410 Broadway. Open daily (Sunday excepted,) at 12, M.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow; Tuesdays, Drs. Cook and Snow; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers; Fridays, Drs. Bayard and Allen.

CLEVELAND HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Hering's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States; No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions; also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.